

Dear Commissioners:

Stop hidden phone fees so I can truly compare prices of phone services. I support the petition filed by the National Association of State Utility Consumer Advocates and endorsed by other consumer advocacy organizations. CG Docket No. 04-208, Petition for Declaratory Ruling Regarding Truth-In-Billing and Billing Format, is long overdue.

Phone bills should be truthful and easy to understand. OBVIOUSLY, any bill should be truthful and easy to understand! People deserve to know what they're being billed for without having to get a Ph.D. in "deciphering obfuscation." What has happened to phone service since deregulation is disastrous. The public was told we would get better service cheaper. Hah! First, we were hounded to death with telemarketers hawking the different services and sometimes switching our carriers without our knowledge.

Now we're faced with the feeding frenzy as all the companies into which Ma Bell was splintered are merging like crazy, changing contracts, billing and service willy-nilly so we will soon have the monopoly deregulation was supposed to end. However, I say, bring back the monopoly with government regulation and make it simple again. Even if it cost more - though it shouldn't as all budgets will be consolidated and they can cut down on all the @\$%^\$# advertising, but it would be worth it.

I have had to spend an ENORMOUS amount of time since deregulation fighting for decent service, fighting to get bills corrected, etc.

Because this practice is tolerated by the FCC, long distance and wireless phone companies are able to hide the true cost of service. These add-ons make the advertised price of service significantly less than the amount of the check I have to write each month to pay the bill. Competition will not work if consumers cannot accurately compare prices when shopping for service.

Many states are stepping up to address this problem. They should be allowed to proceed. However, the FCC shouldn't shirk its responsibility, nor limit states from doing more.

The FCC should immediately grant the NASUCA petition to investigate billing practices, and prohibit phone and wireless companies from imposing separate monthly fees, line items or surcharges unless expressly mandated by law or the charge is expressly authorized by a governmental authority.